

Focus On

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
JULY 2005

July 4th Celebration

Fireworks on the Beach

Moody's Sees Sunnier Skies for Fort Lauderdale

City's Financial Picture Improves

City and Himmarshee Join Forces

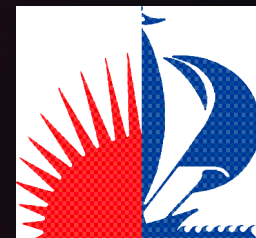
First-Rate Fellowship

Community Redevelopment Agency

City Fights for Sistrunk

Water Quality Report

All About Our Water



A community newsletter published
by the City of Fort Lauderdale



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR... *JIM NAUGLE*

As we contemplate the upcoming Independence Day celebration, I am reminded of what a friend told me -- a recent Harris poll shows that two out of three American adults don't know all of the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner," our National Anthem.

The National Association for Musical Education has established a campaign spotlighting the importance of music education. The campaign's goal is for all Americans to know our National Anthem and have access to music in schools.

Below are the words to the National Anthem written by Francis Scott Key in 1814. Enjoy the 4th of July and let's all sing in celebration of our independence. Together, let's restore America's voice.

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

City Fights for *Sistrunk*

There was a time when Sistrunk Boulevard was the heart and soul of business, culture and entertainment for the Northwest community. The City of Fort Lauderdale and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) are charging full steam ahead to restore Sistrunk Boulevard to its former prominence. The Sistrunk Boulevard Streetscape and Urban Design Project is designed to bring economic revitalization to the neighborhood, provide a safer environment where residents and motorists can coexist, and reposition Sistrunk Boulevard as the "Main Street" of the community.



Recently, the CRA held a neighborhood forum to provide an update on the project. More than 100 people turned out to express their support. In fact, of the 102 forum attendees who completed an exit survey, 93 percent were in favor of the revitalization of Sistrunk Boulevard.

The Fort Lauderdale City Commission strongly supports the project. The City Commission reinforced its commitment to Sistrunk Boulevard by voting unanimously on a resolution urging the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County to recognize the public's strong desire for the City to implement proposed improvements to Sistrunk Boulevard. The resolution also included a request for County Commissioners to consider the transfer of jurisdiction of Sistrunk Boulevard to the City. For more information, call the CRA at 954-828-4514.

City's Financial Picture Improves *Moody's Sees Sunnier Skies for Fort Lauderdale*

Over the last year, a priority of the City Commission and the new City Manager has been to address the financial issues of the past. A number of steps have been taken to improve the City's financial situation, including improving financial controls over contracted



services, privatizing sanitation services, negotiating new collective bargaining agreements, improving revenue and expenditure forecasting, and implementing a major restructuring that saved hundreds of thousands of dollars. As a direct result of these steps, Moody's Investors Service has dropped its "negative outlook" on the City's financial future and affirmed that Fort Lauderdale is back on firm financial footing.

Moody's, an independent credit rating, research, and financial information services company, noted in its evaluation that, "officials have taken appropriate steps to maintain financial stability and that the economic activity in the City will be a positive factor in the continuing recovery." The revised outlook was issued after City officials presented actual and projected revenue and expenditure figures to bond rating agencies during a recent trip to New York.

Bonds are currently being sold to fund the rebuilding of the City's Fire-Rescue stations, which voters approved by a 2-1 margin last November. The revised outlook from Moody's means that the City's financial position is strengthening. Looking ahead, Moody's expects the City's sizable services and tourism-based economy to remain solid, with healthy commercial and residential growth continuing.

Celebrate

OUR 4th of July SPECTACULAR

Light up your Fourth of July with a spectacular fireworks display the surf and sand way. The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks & Recreation Department invites residents and visitors to celebrate America's Independence at Fort Lauderdale Beach on Monday, July 4th. Pull out the coolers, beach blankets and chairs, round up family and friends and spend a day splashing in the surf and basking in the sun. When the sun goes down, watch the sky light up as the City presents its annual fireworks show at 9 p.m. The show takes place over the Atlantic Ocean near Las Olas Boulevard and A1A. Don't miss this premier pyrotechnic experience.

For more information about the City's July 4th Fireworks Spectacular, please call 954-828-5363 or visit the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

Key Sponsor: Q Club Resort

Other Sponsors: Stiles Construction Co. • Best Western Pelican Resort • The W Resort • Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Dana Tugs • Trump International • Regroup Development, LLC • The World Famous Parrot Lounge

City Offers Funding for Home Improvements

The City continues its commitment to low-income homeowners. In order to assist property owners with needed repairs, the Housing and Community Development Division is offering grant money for property rehabilitation. Income-eligible homeowners may apply for up to \$5,000 in funds for permanent improvements such as driveways, landscaping, sprinkler systems, roof repair/replacement, fencing, windows, and more. For more information, please call 954-828-4527.

FORT LAUDERDALE JOINS FRIENDS of SOUTHSIDE School TO *Preserve Flagship Property*

The City of Fort Lauderdale has joined Friends of Southside School for the restoration of the City's first elementary school. The Southside School Restoration Project is a public/private partnership to preserve a cornerstone of the City's history.

Renovation efforts have begun and plans are underway for the school's reopening. Once complete, the school will look much like it did when it first opened in 1923. To join Friends of Southside School, to contribute to the renovation efforts or for more information, call 954-828-5005 or visit www.ftlsouthsideschool.org.



City and Himmarshee Join Forces to Welcome Visitors

Businesses in the Himmarshee Special Entertainment District, along SW 2nd Street in downtown Fort Lauderdale, are committed to keeping the street clean and safe for visitors and patrons. The area, known for its quality restaurants and late night establishments, has faced challenges including street and sidewalk maintenance, noise and crowd control, and illegal consumption of alcohol.

The commitment to improve the District is a joint partnership between City officials and Himmarshee business owners. City officials will conduct more visible police patrols and enhance code enforcement. Businesses will discourage patrons from leaving establishments with glass containers and will explore ways to enhance the streets and sidewalks.

According to the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, arrests are up 25 percent, citations are up 31 percent and enforcement of City Ordinance violations is up 45 percent. When comparing January - May 2004 to the same time period in 2005, there is a decrease in incidents of crime.

With tens of thousands of visitors and regular patrons each year, this joint effort can only improve the Himmarshee District's reputation as one of the most desirable "must see" hot spots in Fort Lauderdale.

All About Our Water

The City processes approximately 50 million gallons of water per day for delivery to your tap. Each year, we perform more than 40,000 tests on your drinking water according to federal and state laws, rules and regulations. The results of these tests are outlined in the 2004 Annual Water Quality Report, which is now available to water customers.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the report, please call the City's 24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000. The report is also available on the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov/h2o/water_report.pdf.

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

SUMMER SAMPLER

BOYS' 14 SUPER NATIONAL CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 17 - 24, 2005 at Jimmy Evert Tennis Center
For more information, call 954-828-5378.

2005 BANK OF AMERICA STARLIGHT MUSICALS

June 17 - July 29 at Holiday Park
Concerts take place every Friday from 7 - 10 p.m.
For more information, call 954-828-5363.

52ND ANNUAL DAVID DEAL PLAYDAY

July 9 - July 30 at Joseph C. Carter Park
Championship Swim Meet, July 30 at Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex. For more information, call 954-828-4759.

CARTER PARK POOL SUMMER SWIM PROGRAMS

June 13 - August 5
For more information, call 954-828-5411.

OCEAN RESCUE JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM

July 18 - July 29 - Registration July 11
For more information, call 954-828-4577.

**For more information on programs and events,
please visit www.fortlauderdale.gov.**

CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS & EVENTS

- July 4: Independence Day Holiday (City Offices Closed)
Fireworks Celebration - Fort Lauderdale Beach - 9 p.m.
July 6: City Commission Conference Meeting - 1:30 p.m.
8th Floor City Hall
City Commission Regular Meeting - 6 p.m.
1st Floor City Hall
July 12: Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations - 7:30 p.m.
8th Floor City Hall

CITIZENS ASKED TO HELP IDENTIFY ADA ACCESSIBILITY AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Fort Lauderdale invites citizens to identify and request accessibility improvements for the disabled to public sidewalks and intersections located within the City's jurisdiction and control. The City will include such locations on a prioritized list of sidewalk and intersection locations that require improvements to meet American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. For more information, please contact Sean L. Nealon, Engineer, at 954-828-5061 or snealon@fortlauderdale.gov.

Notices may also be mailed to: Sean L. Nealon
Engineering Technician, City of Fort Lauderdale
100 N. Andrews Avenue, 4th Floor, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

CITY COMMISSION

Jim Naugle, Mayor
Christine Teel, Vice Mayor - District I
Dean J. Trantalis, Commissioner - District II
Carlton B. Moore, Commissioner - District III
Cindi Hutchinson, Commissioner - District IV

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REQUESTED IN-HOUSE DELIVERY DATES: JUNE 26, 2005 - JULY 2, 2005

If you would like this publication in an alternate format (large print or audio tape), contact the City of Fort Lauderdale Public Information Department at 954-828-4PIO (4746).

Poun mande kopi enfòmasyon sa yo an kreyòl, telefone 954-828-4746.
Si desea copias en español de esta información, sírvase llamar al teléfono 954-828-4746.